

man had done the best he could. He had tried in every way not to disappoint those who had advanced his interests and the clamoring public. If Shafter was not a good and deserving man in himself I am sure that American bluffs and a kind providence would not have helped him out.

Our army was encouraged by the coming of General Miles. It knew that for the future all would be right. They could die for General Miles and know it would be in the cause of good generalship. General Miles in his quiet way upon arriving—that same way that made old Chief Joseph ask, "Who is this new white chief that has come—the other four were children—this one stops my way?"—told General Toral what must be done and said no more. He waited for General Toral to do it. And a great and glorious victory is given to Shafter. Let him have it. As I said before, God knows he needs it.

Now General Shafter is to be recalled. He and his army are coming north to rest. As a matter of fact the secretary of war knows that not one regiment in Shafter's command is free from yellow fever. The Thirty-third Michigan, at the last report, had thirty-six cases. By this time that figure probably has doubled. This news is all doctored up and suppressed.

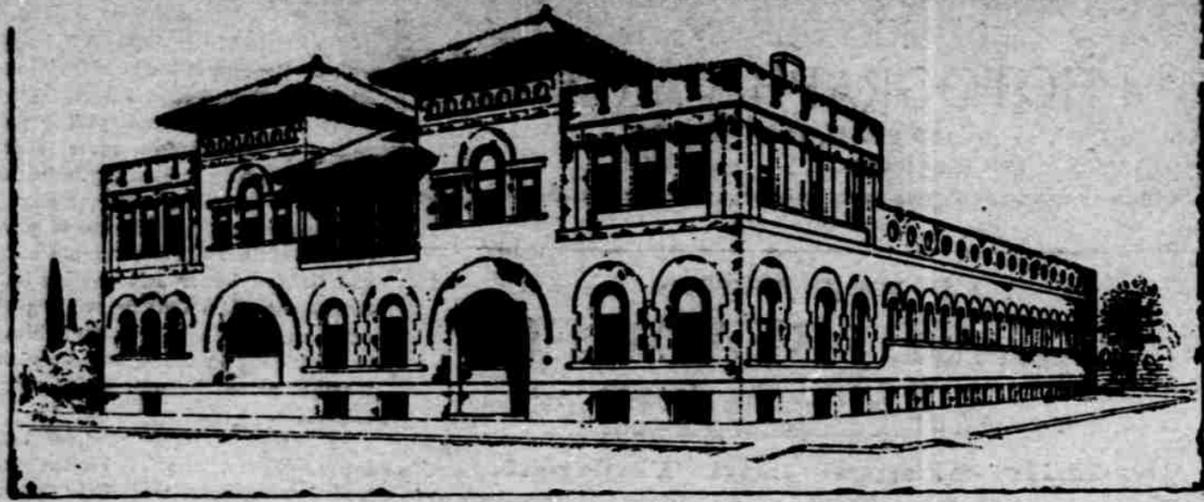
Why?  
For various reasons; principal among which is the one that before the invasion commenced Secretary Alger and the men of the cabinet were told that the scourge would meet our men, and it meant slaughter to send them there in summer. A member of the cabinet told me—don't ask who, for I cannot tell you—that General Miles stood there and talked as he never talked before for the postponement of the invasion until fall. He gave his views so strongly that he came near winning.

President McKinley is running things now to suit himself. It is he who has sent General Miles to the front. And the dark circles under the President's eyes are disappearing, and a weight is lifted from his heart. He believes in General Miles. General Miles will work thoughtfully, and the public will again ask, in all probability, "What is he waiting for?" Why does he not do something? He will do things in his own way, and the result will show victory and comparatively small loss—perhaps a bloodless battle, though that would be too much to expect. Because his track will not show a long line of gore and dead bodies his critics will criticise and forget that a good general saves lives as well as wins the battle.

I am told it is not policy to tell the truth just now. I might wait, but there are too many obstacles being Miles. But for this I might hold these facts in reserve until victory that is sure to come to him. General Miles should have fair treatment.

Orders from the president should not, must not be suppressed in the war department.

Col. Frank K. Hecker, an old friend of Secretary Alger, who has been placed in charge of the pier building expedition which was asked for by General Miles, should have been out long ago. He is at this writing still at Newport News—he has been "so busy attending to the transportation of Spanish prisoners."



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**OVERHEARD AT "THE MAST."**

On board men-o-war all offenders against the rigid discipline of the navy are "brought to the mast." There, in the presence of the officer of the deck, the captain hears complaints and awards punishments. The following amusing incident is related by a naval officer as having actually occurred on one of the cruisers now off Havana:

"Jes' like dis, cap'n," said the Bowery recruit who has been brought to the mast for fighting, "as I trows me divan in the ditch I pipes de spud peeler plantin' his feelers on me swash can, and—"

"Hold on!—what's that?" said the captain.

"He means to say, Captain," said the officer of the deck, "that, as he was stowing his hammock in the nettings, he saw the cook trying to steal his water bucket."

"He hangs the bluff agin me dat it is his'n," continued the seaman, "but I digs de packing out o' my peepers and goes to squeeze de bone."

"Which is equivalent to saying," said the officer of the deck, "that the cook would have him believe that the bucket was his own, but the seaman, refusing to be hoodwinked, started to recover his property."

"I digs him in de stoop wid me still, and plants me squeezers in his ticklers. but de guy starts de ki-yi, when I jolts him in de mask."

"That is to say," said the officer of the deck, "that he gave the cook a kick, and commenced to pull his whiskers, when the latter started to yell, whereupon the seaman hit him in the face."

"I breaks a brace of tombstones, and lets the gearer free—when he plants a stall agin me wind, and starts de fix at me sniffer, and—"

"Stop! Stop!" said the captain.

"I take it," said the officer of the deck, "that he knocked two of the cook's teeth out, and then let him go; but the cook, not being satisfied, commenced to choke the seaman, and gave him a blow that caused his nose to bleed."

"Well, now, my man," said the captain, "if I hear any more Choctaw spiel like this I'll caress the stomach of your jeans in a way that will remind you of a hoodoo skate on the Midway; and in the meantime I'll give you a boobie watch with bracelets, in the refrigerator, for a seven spot."

"Which means," observed the officer of the deck to the seaman, "that any more mutilation of the English language by you will cause the captain to kick the stuffing out of you, and meanwhile you get a week in a brig, with handcuffs and shackle."—*Collier's Weekly.*

"Marie, where will you spend the summer?"

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